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ASB 378

7 May 2025

## Mitigating Global Health and Migration Inequities: Glocalized Solutions for Global Justice

Globalization has fundamentally transformed patterns of human migration, scientific institutions, and health outcomes worldwide. As interconnectedness increases, so do the challenges related to population mobility and health inequities across borders. For this writing assignment, I have written an essay that proposes two solutions to mitigate these challenges. When addressing the complex and intricate challenges of globalization, I believe we need a multi-faceted approach that combines both local interventions and international coordination. The most effective solutions embrace both top-down policy changes and bottom-up community engagement. Additionally, both governmental regulation and non-governmental initiatives are essential. This essay will focus on proposing two solutions towards improving health disparities in a globalized world and transnational migration rights.

Globalization has exacerbated health disparities both within and between nations. As seen in Module 7, the global economic system is dominated by rich and developed countries, which has created profound inequalities in health outcomes that disproportionately affect migrants and populations in developing countries. As seen in the Skolnik Reading, migration patterns influenced by globalization have created unique health challenges for migrants who often face discrimination in healthcare access and experience worse health outcomes compared to native

populations [1]. Migrants frequently encounter systematic workload differences that negatively impact their physical and mental health within the same occupations as natives. Moreover, these health disparities begin early in life and follow individuals throughout their lifespan, as negative trajectories may be more salient if exposures to adversity occur during critical developmental periods. A recent example of this situation, seen in Module 7, is the inequitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, where wealthy countries secured the vast majority of doses early on, leaving low-income nations struggling. The current global health order is essentially characterized by fundamental global injustices in the distribution of resources and care. The global food system also contributes significantly to health disparities. As discussed in Module 4, the distribution and access to adequate food is highly uneven and structured by international hierarchies and inequalities. While the world has the ability to produce enough food for everyone, the rich and developed countries have ended up consuming much more food than they need, while poor countries do not even have the opportunity to produce or import enough food. As Lechner points out, this inequality in food access has led to a world where 650 million people are obese while 815 million are hungry, and two billion people around the world, mainly in developing countries, are defined as food insecure [2].

Therefore, I propose the 'Vocal For Local' initiative, which would be a comprehensive international program, implemented through a treaty-backed fund and partnership network to ensure equitable access to healthcare in developing countries. This would address health disparities by combining preventive care, nutrition support, culturally sensitive healthcare, and community empowerment. These networks would operate at the local level but also be supported by international funding and knowledge-sharing platforms to ensure equitable access to modern research and technologies in healthcare. These programs would increase access to nutritious

foods while respecting cultural food preferences, particularly in areas with high migrant populations. Similar to the Charleston FoodRx program [3], this would also serve as an integrated community-based health network to provide subsidized food prescriptions. There will be community members trained to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps between healthcare systems and migrant communities. They would help migrants navigate the healthcare system, provide translation services, and advocate for culturally appropriate care. This initiative will also include developing mobile applications and telehealth services aimed towards improving access to healthcare, and monitoring of chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease which have become the leading cause of death in developing countries as seen in Module 4. Implementation would begin with pilot programs in areas with significant health disparities. There would be technical support from health professionals and international NGOs. Funding would come from a combination of host country governments and international development agencies.

The core strength of this solution is that it directly targets the structural inequality at the heart of global health disparities by redistributing resources and building capacity. Another strength is its long-term vision, since it seeks to create lasting healthcare infrastructure and systemic changes by training local professionals and establishing financing mechanisms for the poor. This aligns with my philosophy towards global problems that sustained development is needed to fundamentally close health gaps, while being collaborative by leveraging governments' funding power, international organizations' expertise, and NGOs' on-the-ground reach. Despite its promise, this solution faces significant challenges since it requires extraordinary political will and international cooperation. Convincing wealthier governments to commit large funds and potentially adjust pharmaceutical patent rules could be difficult because many governments have prioritized market liberalization over social spending as we see in

Module 6. Lechner brings up a past experience showing that global institutions often favor the interests of powerful nations and corporations over the marginalized populations [2][4]. There is a risk that this initiative would become a bureaucratic exercise dominated by donor countries, potentially neglecting the voices of those in need and mitigating this will require strong governance safeguards.

Globalization has vastly increased migration flows, but migrants often face severe injustices both in transit and in their destination countries as Module 1 describes. Economic globalization has created a world where the wealth is concentrated among a small number of elite countries who often have marginalized, low-skilled, underpaid immigrant workers laboring at the bottom. These immigrant workers frequently toil in difficult, low-wage jobs that locals avoid, such as agriculture, construction, or domestic work. Lacking power and sometimes legal status, they are vulnerable to immigration-based exploitation. In wealthy host societies, the presence of these global migrants often triggers a backlash as well. Local populations tend to perceive low-skilled immigrants as a threat to jobs, culture, or security, leading to social resistance to immigration which results in discriminatory attitudes and xenophobic political movements. Governments respond to public pressure by attempting to keep out these migrants through restrictive laws and border controls. The migrants also live under constant deportation threats, as crackdowns and raids aim to expel those unwanted by the host society. This dynamic creates a cycle of vulnerability where migrants from poor countries fill necessary jobs in rich countries but without legal protections, they are easily exploited and remain socially marginalized.

Therefore, my proposed solution is a Grassroots Movement for Migrant Justice which would be a transnational coalition of NGOs, migrant communities, and human rights advocates

pushing for fair treatment of immigrants, coupled with local programs to support and integrate migrants. Rather than a single policy or treaty, this has to be a movement-driven approach that offers not only an awareness campaign but also legal advocacy and support services to migrants across the world. The core philosophy is to empower civil society to demand that migrants' rights be respected as human rights. At the international level, migrant justice organizations from various countries would rally around a platform of principles such as the fair treatment of migrant workers, an end to arbitrary deportations, and improve access to paths towards legalization. We would start with one concrete goal: pressuring every country to adopt equitable and fair international standards for migrant rights.

The distinctive strength of this solution lies in its focus on grassroots action within countries. In practice, the movement would support the creation and expansion of local migrant justice coalitions in major host countries such the United States or the Gulf states. This would bring together immigrant-led organizations, local labor unions, and citizen allies. Their activities will include organizing public education campaigns to counter anti-immigrant myths, showcasing positive contributions of immigrants, and setting up legal hotlines to assist undocumented workers in reporting exploitation safely. This solution will operate at the local level but will be linked by a global network that provides solidarity and coordination around the world. Over time, as public opinion is softened and organized pressure grows, the goal is to achieve tangible policy wins: for example, a national law that grants undocumented migrants a pathway to legal residence, or stronger enforcement of wage laws so employers cannot easily exploit migrant labor. Each such victory in one locale can inspire and legitimize efforts in another, creating a domino effect toward more humane migration governance. This bottom-up empowerment is crucial for social justice which creates solutions that are informed by migrants'

real experiences of exploitation and discrimination, making them more relevant and sustainable. This flexibility reflects the concept of glocalization, where global ideas are localized and hybridized as seen in Module 1.

Both proposed solutions aim to rectify the inequitable outcomes of globalization and bring social justice to those who have been left behind. By combining the strengths of both global and local efforts, short-term interventions and long-term reforms, and involving stakeholders at all levels from international organizations to everyday citizens, we increase our chances of mitigating the negative consequences of globalization. In the end, achieving social justice for the poor and marginalized will demand perseverance and collaboration across borders. As globalization has made us more interconnected, it has also made it clear that our responsibilities are global. Only through bold initiatives and collective action, we can ensure that globalization's gains are more evenly shared and its burdens more equitably addressed.

### **References**

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